

**Menshek, Peggy Y**

---

**From:** Natascha Shawver <neshawver@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 6:12 PM  
**To:** Redistricting2012  
**Cc:** Matthew J. Harmon; Adosh Unni; blickness@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Fwd: Redistricting 2012 - Whittier neighborhood

Hello,

It appears as if our letter regarding the Minneapolis redistricting did not make it in to the public record. I have downloaded all available PDFs on your page (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/redistricting2012/WCMS1Q-068890>) and am unable to find it. I am forwarding the original email with this message. Please let me know when I can find it online. I apologize in advance should this be an oversight on my part.

Best,

Natascha Shawver

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Natascha Shawver** <neshawver@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Mar 1, 2012 at 4:33 PM  
**Subject:** Redistricting 2012 - Whittier neighborhood  
**To:** [Redistricting2012@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Redistricting2012@minneapolismn.gov), [barry@bfclegg.com](mailto:barry@bfclegg.com), [adosh.unni@gmail.com](mailto:adosh.unni@gmail.com), [blickness@yahoo.com](mailto:blickness@yahoo.com)

We are writing to you as a residents of Whittier. While we fully agree with redistricting as a useful tool to ensure fairer civic participation in Minneapolis, we would like to express some very specific concerns regarding the currently suggested ward map and the implicated changes as they pertain to Whittier:

1. Whittier is an organic entity, grown since the last century. It prides itself in being home to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, MCAD, a host of historic buildings, and Eat Street to name just a few. The people living here identify themselves with Whittier's historic heritage and to slice the neighborhood up in two different parts will, we fear, diminish this coherence. We believe that much more attention needs to be spent on keeping traditional neighborhoods intact as part of the current redistricting process in general. The neighborhoods are what makes Minneapolis so special after all, and cutting off one of the most vibrant parts of my community (We live on Pleasant and would be in Ward 10 according to this new map) makes us, and many of our neighbors, feel like a vital part of our neighborhood is being torn away.

2. We are also concerned that Whittier being divided up so arbitrarily ignores the tremendous efforts it has been putting forward to re-vitalize the neighborhood in the areas of economic development and historic preservation. According to your own Principles, as found on your website, the process should:

(1) Keep communities of interest (a group that shares common interests such as ethnic heritage or specific economic concerns) in one Minneapolis City ward or Park and Recreation district where possible.

(2) Change current boundaries as little as possible.

(<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/redistricting2012/WCMS1Q-068919>)

Splitting off the historic district from the rest of Whittier strikes us as much more severe than what is laid out in these guidelines and I strongly urge you to reconsider.

3) Whittier is currently undergoing significant changes in regards to economic development and is also facing transit issues such as the 35W transit access and the planned trolleys that are interconnected and which would be much easier to deal with if the neighborhood could speak with one voice instead of having to deal with the additional bureaucratic complexity of two wards.

For the reasons laid out above, we strongly urge you to reconsider splitting Whittier up as currently suggested in the new redistricting map.

Sincerely,

Natascha Shawver  
Matthew Harmon  
2501 Pleasant Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

--

-Natascha Shawver